Aboard the 30 1835

My dear Charlie,

The alarm & distress for your health which was created some weeks ago by Mr Brunel's account of your late illness, have been dissipated by Johns letter of the 21st ult., & now, when I trust you read this, that you will be well and robust enjoying the pure air and lovely scenery of Clermont. Under the roof of dear Elizabeth, surrounded by Freemantle whose kindness to one whom you like yourself a beholden I entertain the liveliest gratitude, and although it seems at present problematical that I shall ever have it in my power to repay it, I shall be followed by the most pleasurable early recollections, yet should my steps retrace my way to England & at twenty thousand leagues distance, I shall not fail in returning one sincere wish to dear Clermont, to see the friends of more youthful days, and to dwell, even if but for a brief interval, on the dearest spot of remembrance endeared to me!

I am detained at the Downs for a few days, for a comparatively short time, and can hardly picture to my mind's eye your first astonishment, changed, as you must be, from the boy of 15 to more than the years of the young man, and I shall be much disappointed if the blooming cheek, however